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PRAVDA ED

(1) Advantages to Soviet
in dealing "by editorial."

Preserves anonymity and get the
attention abroad of major official
pronouncement - but can always be
disavowed, if results bad.

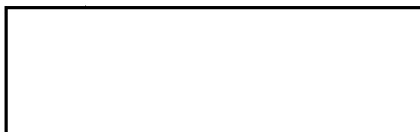
(2) Molotov probably
inspired it.

(3) Purposes

(a) Exploit US - UK
differences

(b) Attempt to block
Bermuda Conference by
hinting it may disturb
possibilities of Big Four
Conference

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.



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AUSTRIAN TREATY

No one really expected results. Harder to explain why unwilling talk.

Probably feared delaying tactics would be exploited against them.

Fits in with their present thesis "lets take up a few of the big problems at high level."

Save bargaining position on Austria for full fledged German discussions.

*Show of strength by
new Sov. leaders - "they
refused to be forced into negotiation"*

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(Bohlen thinks Soviet might even try get Big Four meeting to forestall Bermuda). Want this meeting while our relations with Britain disturbed.

(4) Shows Soviet concern over Germany as their present prime worry.

(5) Last paragraph reads:



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It is quite obvious that, however much the social systems of separate states differ, there are not a few vitally important instances in which the interests of the peoples of these states converge. Such a vitally important instance is, first of all, peace and the development of economic and cultural cooperation between the nations. The Soviet Union is ready in all seriousness and in all conscience to examine any proposals directed at securing peace and the widest economic and cultural connections between states.

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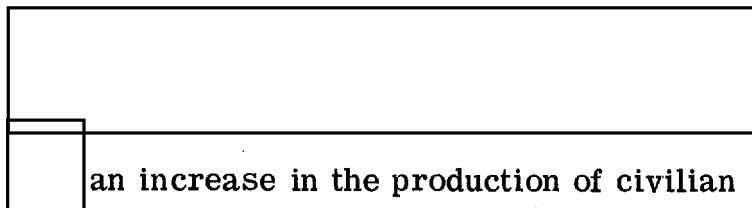


SOVIET UNION

(INTERNAL POPULARITY CAMPAIGN)

1. The present government is continuing its efforts to appear more liberal and popular than the Stalin regime.
 - a. It previously has declared an amnesty for prisoners and made large price cuts.
 - b. It now has placed wheat flour on open sale, for the first time practically since the end of the war.

c.

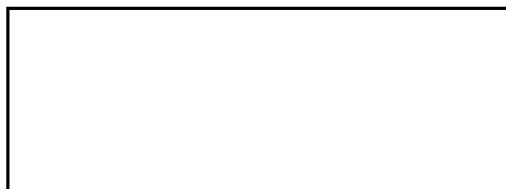


 an increase in the production of civilian goods may also be planned.

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2. ~~Russian public opinion has been stirred by this~~
~~campaign.~~

③ Our embassy in Moscow reports rumors are circulating that there will be no state loan drive this year, and that the work-day will be cut from 8 to 7 hours.

④ Bargain Sales at
25 to 30% below
former prices



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French Government -

Reynaud has a slight chance to form a government, with odds in his favor increased somewhat by Bermuda Conference.

- Socialists will not be in
- RPF (Gaullists) will probably be in but, being eager to participate, will probably lack bargaining power.
- Coalition (Right to Left)

Gaullists (RPF)
Peasants
Independents - (Pinay, Reynaud)
MRP - (Bidault)
Overseas Independents
Radical Socialists - (Mayer, Queuille)
Democratic Socialist Union of Resistance
(Pleven)

- Bidault likely to be Foreign Minister if Reynaud gets in, particularly with Bermuda Conference coming up.

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